

Safe Infants Protocol For Prehospital Providers

1116

Any parent or person acting on behalf of the parent may come to a police station, firehouse, EMS station, or hospital unannounced and leave a newborn infant. When this event occurs the police officer, firefighter, EMS worker, or hospital worker SHALL accept the infant. This situation must meet the following criteria.

1. The newborn infant must be medically determined to be less than 72 hours old.
2. The newborn infant cannot have indicators of child abuse, maltreatment, or neglect after birth.

Basic Life Support

1. Perform a primary and secondary survey of the infant and initiate any necessary procedure to protect the child's health and safety. Keep the newborn warm especially the head.
2. Kentucky law requires that any care provider who suspects child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment SHALL report it. You should call the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) hotline at 1-800-752-6200 to make your report. You have no authority to detain, follow or pursue the parent.
3. Summon EMS for transport of the infant.
4. Notify your supervisor and follow any policies and procedures your agency has implemented.
5. Retrieve and open an "Abandoned Infant Pack". Complete the enclosed checklist.
6. Place the numbered band around the ankle of the infant.
7. Ensure that the band's stub remains attached to the Medical Information Form and copy the stub number directly onto the Medical Information Form.
8. You will offer the parent information regarding medical needs of the mother who is post partum, a written explanation of the parent's legal rights, and services available to the parent, which have been provided in the packet.
9. Newborn infants should be transported in an age appropriate car seat if available. Otherwise newborns should be transported using appropriate immobilization measures.
10. Newborn infants may be fed with SIMILAC or ENFAMIL if a lengthy transport time is anticipated. Newborns normally eat 2-2.5 ounces of formula at feeding. Feeding is not advised for any infant that is experiencing any respiratory or circulatory abnormality.

Advanced Life Support

1. ALS as necessary.
2. Consider rapid glucose determination.

Key Points/Considerations

Prehospital Providers MAY NOT

1. Detain, follow or pursue the parent at any time.
2. Coerce or otherwise force the parent into revealing their identity.
3. Coerce or otherwise force the parent to keep the infant.
4. Coerce or otherwise force the parent to give any medical information

Service Director Initials _____

Medical Director Initials _____

Date Approved By KBEMS _____

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